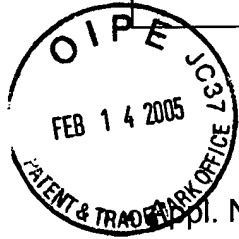


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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By: *Susan L. Baka*  
Susan L. Baka



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 10/622,916 Confirmation No. 2748  
Applicant : Vergani et al.  
Filed : July 17, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 1754  
Examiner : Wayne A. Langel  
Docket No. : 59183-8027.US06  
Customer No: 22918

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office action of December 8, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

02/15/2005 YPOLITE1 00000032 502207 10622916

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